

By: Clardy

H.B. No. 3662

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.922 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.922. TEXAS WORKFORCE INNOVATION NEEDS PROGRAM. (a)

In this section, "program" means the Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program.

(b) The Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program is established to:

(1) provide selected school districts and public institutions of higher education with the opportunity to establish innovative programs designed to prepare students for careers for which there is demand in this state; and

(2) use the results of those programs to inform the governor, legislature, and commissioner concerning methods for transforming public and higher education in this state by improving student learning and career preparedness.

(c) To apply to participate in the program, a school district or public institution of higher education must use the form and apply in the time and manner established by commissioner rule. The application process must require each applicant district or institution of higher education to submit a detailed plan as required by Subsection (d) of the instruction and accountability

1 the applicant would provide under the program.

2 (d) A plan submitted under Subsection (c):

3 (1) must, to the greatest extent appropriate for the
4 grade or higher education levels served under the program:

5 (A) be designed to support improved instruction
6 of and learning by students and provide evidence of the accurate
7 assessment of the quality of learning on campus;

8 (B) focus on engagement of students in
9 competency-based learning as necessary to earn postsecondary
10 credentials, including:

11 (i) career and technical certificates;

12 (ii) associate's degrees;

13 (iii) bachelor's degrees; and

14 (iv) graduate degrees;

15 (C) incorporate career and technical courses
16 into dual enrollment courses or into the early college education
17 program under Section 29.908 to provide students the opportunity to
18 earn a career or technical certificate or associate's degree;

19 (D) describe any waiver of an applicable
20 prohibition, requirement, or restriction for which the district or
21 institution of higher education intends to apply; and

22 (E) include any other information required by
23 commissioner rule; and

24 (2) may, if submitted by a school district, designate
25 one or more campuses rather than the entire district to participate
26 in the program.

27 (e) From among the school districts and institutions of

1 higher education that apply as required under this section, the
2 commissioner may select not more than 10 participants for the
3 program. The commissioner shall select those applicant school
4 districts and institutions of higher education that present the
5 plans that are most likely to be effective in producing the next
6 generation of higher performing public schools and institutions of
7 higher education that provide education and training in an
8 innovative form and manner to prepare students for careers for
9 which there is demand in this state.

10 (f) The commissioner shall convene program leaders
11 periodically to discuss methods to transform learning
12 opportunities for all students, build cross-institution support
13 systems and training, and share best practices tools and processes.

14 (g) A school district or institution of higher education
15 participating in the program or the commissioner may, for purposes
16 of this section, accept gifts, grants, or donations from any
17 source, including a private or governmental entity.

18 (h) To cover the costs of administering the program, the
19 commissioner may charge a fee to a school district or institution of
20 higher education participating in the program.

21 (i) In consultation with interested school districts,
22 institutions of higher education, and other appropriate interested
23 persons, the commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary for
24 purposes of this section.

25 (j) Not later than December 1, 2014, and not later than
26 December 1, 2016, with the assistance of school districts and
27 institutions of higher education participating in the program, the

1 commissioner shall submit to the governor and the legislature
2 reports concerning the performance and progress of the program
3 participants. The report submitted not later than December 1,
4 2014, must include any recommendation by the commissioner
5 concerning legislative authorization necessary for the
6 commissioner to waive a prohibition, requirement, or restriction
7 that applies to a program participant and other school district or
8 institution of higher education interested in beginning a similar
9 program. To prepare for implementation of a commissioner waiver,
10 the commissioner shall seek any necessary federal waiver. This
11 subsection expires January 1, 2020.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.